

Good morning.

My name is Gil Martinez and I am the new Executive Director for Hartford Public Access (HPA). I feel it is important that I testify before you today to provide a snap shot of what HPA once meant to the Capital City and what it can become once again for the development of young minds and idle hands.

Because Hartford Public Access afforded me the opportunity to become a Volunteer Producer at the age of 17, I was given a positive and exciting form of expression as a young man growing up in Hartford's public housing. Upon graduation from Hartford Public High School I was invited by my High School Counselor to attend a Summer Training Program at Hartford Public Access (then Hartford Community Television) along with 39 other Hartford Public School Juniors & Seniors.

This comprehensive video production training program opened a new door for many of us who went on to pursue careers in the field of communications. A few of the graduates of the program who may not have been exposed to such training were able to enjoy opportunities at ESPN, WFSB and other media outlets but most of the graduates like myself stayed on as volunteer producers, camera operators and editors assisting in the documentation and broadcasting of the vast signature cultural events that make Hartford a vibrant destination.

Unfortunately, HPA is operating with limited resources at the present time and most of our equipment is at life's end. In order for us to obtain the tools to appropriately document and prepare quality programming for broadcast, and have the capability to make training programs available to the general community and our younger generations who now depend on cell phone and tablet/pc technology to source their media of choice, we are in dire need of new equipment and advanced cloud technology.

Such resources would allow HPA to engage more members of our community in efficiently documenting and broadcasting the Capital City's rich and diverse social, music, arts & cultural events thus promoting Hartford as the vibrant community that it is through quality broadcasting and online streaming of content allowing ACCESS to remote on-demand viewing.

I would be glad to discuss the needs of HPA in further detail. I can be contacted directly at (860) 539-1678.

Sincerely,

Gil Martinez, Executive Director
Hartford Public Access Television